

REMARKS

Please reconsider this application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Applicant thanks the Examiner for carefully considering this application. Further, Applicant thanks the Examiner for the courtesies extended during the Examiner interview held on March 13, 2008, in which the Examiner indicated that claim 9 includes allowable subject matter.

Status of Claims

Claims 1-28 were pending in the application. Claims 2-3, 5-6, and 9 are hereby cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 29-33 are newly added. Accordingly, claims 1, 4, 7-8, and 10-33 are now pending. Claims 1 and 28 are independent. The remaining claims depend, directly or indirectly, from independent claims 1 and 28.

Claim Amendments

Independent claim 1 is hereby amended to incorporate the limitations of now-cancelled claim 9. Now-cancelled claim 9 also included the limitations of now-cancelled claims 2, 5, and 6, and those limitations are also included in amended independent claim 1. Specifically, the limitations of each of the aforementioned claims are found in amended independent claim 1 as follows.

Now-cancelled claim 2 recited, in part, "wherein the evaluating comprises determining a Boolean value of the first predicate." Amended independent claim 1 recites, in part, "evaluating a first predicate ... to determine a first Boolean value."

Now-cancelled claim 5 recited, in part, “wherein the Boolean value is false.”
Amended independent claim 1 recites, in part, “wherein the first Boolean value is false.”

Now-cancelled claim 6 recited, in part, “determining whether the first predicate is cacheable.” Amended independent claim 1 recites, in part, “determining that the first predicate is cacheable.”

Now-cancelled claim 9 recited, in part, “identifying the first predicate using a predicate cache identifier; storing the predicate cache identifier with the probe as a probe cache identifier; and storing the predicate cache identifier in the predicate cache.” Amended independent claim 1 recites, in part, “identifying the first predicate using a predicate cache identifier; storing the predicate cache identifier with the probe as a probe cache identifier; caching ... the predicate cache identifier in a predicate cache.”

Applicant respectfully submits that “caching ... the predicate cache identifier in a predicate cache” is effectively equivalent to “storing the predicate cache identifier in the predicate cache,” because caching is a type of storing. Further, Applicant notes that “storing the predicate cache identifier with the probe as a probe cache identifier” means that the predicate cache identifier is stored along with other information associated with the probe – for example, in a data structure. *See, e.g.,* paragraphs [0015]-[0016] of the specification as filed.

Further, independent claim 1 is hereby amended to clarify that the Boolean value (*i.e.*, the result of the evaluating) is cached in the predicate cache, rather than the predicate itself. *See, e.g.,* paragraph [0020] of the specification as filed. Claims 4, 7-8, 10-11, 13-14, 16, 18, and 21-22 are hereby amended for consistency with amended independent claim 1. Independent

claim 28 is hereby amended in essentially the same manner as amended independent claim 1.

As noted above, claims 29-33 are newly added.

These amendments and newly added claims do not introduce any new subject matter, as support can be found in at least paragraphs [0015]-[0025] of the specification as filed.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-8 and 10-28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,728,949 B1 ("Bryant"). The rejection is moot with respect to now-cancelled claims 2-3 and 5-6. To the extent that the rejection may still apply to the amended claims, the rejection is respectfully traversed.

As noted above, amended independent claims 1 and 28 include the limitations of now-cancelled claims 2, 5, 6, and 9. Therefore, amended independent claims 1 and 28 include the subject matter of now-cancelled claim 9, which the Examiner indicated as being allowable during the Examiner interview held on March 13, 2008. Therefore, amended independent claims 1 and 28 are allowable for at least the same reasons as now-cancelled claim 9, and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

New Claims

Claims 29-33 depend, directly or indirectly, from amended independent claims 1 and 28, and therefore include at least the same allowable subject matter.

Conclusion

Applicant believes this reply is fully responsive to all outstanding issues and places this application in condition for allowance. If this belief is incorrect, or other issues arise, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned or his associates at the telephone number listed below. Please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to Deposit Account 50-0591 (Reference Number 03226/341001; SUN040193).

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Respectfully submitted,

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